



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 21, 2019

Representative Raymond Hull
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Representative Raymond Hull
616 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908

US Mail and Hand-delivery

Dear Representative Hull:

This letter is a follow-up to the events taking place during the House of Representatives Session of Wednesday, March 13, 2019 and your actions during that session. Rule 33(a) of House Resolution Adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives for the Years 2019 and 2020, H – 5037A states, "...No member may vote for another member, nor activate another member's voting machine except by the express direction of that member who is present in the House chamber (emphasis added)."


Your actions and statements of Wednesday, March 13, 2019 are a direct violation of Rule 33(a). A review of the video and audio tapes from the Session indicate that during the roll call of Wednesday, March 13, 2019, you activated the attendance button for Representative John Lombardi who was neither present in the House Chamber nor present in the State House. As the Session proceeded, you voted for the absent Representative Lombardi on three (3) separate occasions.


When questions were put to the body during the House Session as to Representative Lombardi's presence, you indicated by pointing to your cellphone that "Mr. Lombardi is right here." You then pointed toward the door leading to the House Lounge and said, "Mr. Lombardi is right here, and I can get him." The House Session concluded at 5:29 p.m. A review of security footage shows Representative Lombardi wearing sneakers and sweatpants arriving at the State House at 5:42 pm, approximately 13 minutes after the House Session concluded, and departing the building at 5:57 p.m.

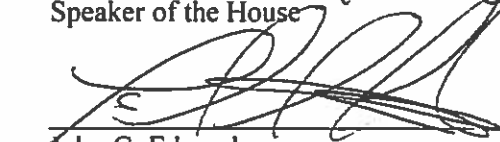
The House of Representatives has a long tradition as a distinguished body. Your statements to the body were misleading at best. Your statements to the media after this incident indicate a continued disregard for the truth. Your lack of respect for the integrity of the House of Representatives and your colleagues is very disappointing.

Based on your actions and subsequent statements, it is with regret that this letter of admonishment is being sent to you. We deem this an appropriate final resolution of this matter. However, should you wish to challenge this admonishment, Rule 33(b) allows for a referral of this matter to the House Rules Committee where a hearing will be held. Please contact the Speaker's Office if you wish to have this matter referred to the Rules Committee for a hearing pursuant to Rule 33(b).

Sincerely,


Nicholas A. Mattiello
Speaker of the House


K. Joseph Shekarchi
House Majority Leader


John G. Edwards
House Majority Whip


Arthur J. Corvese
Chairman, House Committee on Rules